

FOOD NOT BOMBS

In order to keep in better touch with other Food Not Bombs groups, as well as to have some information for curious volunteers, we have decided that a newsletter would be the best format. There isn't a monthly or bi-monthly schedule for it as of yet, but we'll try to be at least bi-monthly for the time being.

We've been serving two days a week now, Tuesdays and Saturdays, and we also have food give-aways throughout the week. We've been trying to set a date for the food give-aways, but as for now, it's just a table outside of a few houses with whatever surplus vegetables we happen to have at the time. We're also reluctant to set a date because our surplus can range from a couple limp carrots to boxes of eggplant and organic herbs. For the time being, it's nice to meet neighbors coming around the corner to see what's on the table.

At some point, we'd also like to attempt an exchange with other bay area FNB groups, but for now we have no way to bring our excess to other cities, and the farmers markets are closing down within the week, thus eliminating our abundant contributions.

For now, we have a donated refrigerator up and running, eliminating a lot of spoilage and a few donating groups that will continue through the winter.

If anyone can help in donating the following things or knows a good price deal, please call and let us know: 5 gallon buckets with lids, cooking pots, serving utensils, bowls & cups, spices, a dehydrator, silkscreening or sign-making, photocopying, a van or your time...

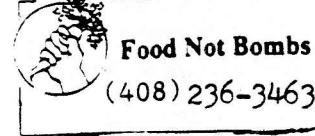


Weekly free meals:
Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.
Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
in St. James Park

— ☆ —
Comida gratis cada semana:
Martes y Sabado
3 de la tarde en el Parque
St. James

Fact Sheet on Homelessness: This Is Why We are Serving

- ✓ There are 30,000 homeless people in Santa Clara County and 18,000 homeless people in San José.
- ✓ The fastest growing segments of the overall homeless population are families with children and the working poor.
- ✓ 94% of the homeless in Santa Clara County report that Santa Clara County was their last place of residence(i.e. they became homeless in their hometown).
- ✓ The Annual Performance Report dated 11-24-92 shows that 275 units of very low income housing were completed in 1991-1992 in San José.
- ✓ The number of homeless people in San José and in America has quadrupled in the last decade.
- ✓ There are 10,000 people on the waiting list for rental assistance at the Santa Clara County Housing Authority.



A SHORT HISTORY OF SAN JOSÉ FOOD NOT BOMBS!



In December of 1993, amid a flurry of chaotic excitement, San José Food Not Bombs served its first meal. Inspired by the other Food Not Bombs around the Bay Area, a group of people in San José decided that their fair city needed an FNB of its own.

Those first days were somewhat disorganized at times, usually crazy, and always fun. The very first serving had the driver taking her car off road and right into the middle of the park. Since then, we've expanded in every way, although some experiments have failed, such as our macaroni and cheese-like mush that absolutely no one wanted to eat.

We have gained much community exposure and support, attendance at local actions and events, and more donations and volunteers. We are also much more organized now, with a voice-mail number, numerous kitchens to cook at and a steady flow of food. When we first began, it was just a few people picking up whatever Loaves and Fishes, a local food distribution organization, had to offer. We served in St. James Park which, at the time, was where many other groups served food. A few months later, the city banned all groups from serving in the park as part of some inane plan to curb drug dealing.

Food Not Bombs refused to leave, as St. James park is the prime downtown spot to serve food, and for a while they left us alone there.

In June of 1994, volunteers quit showing up, and the group was being held together by about three people who worked all day on Saturdays cooking, serving and cleaning-up. But while that was going on, another group of people were meeting and forming their own San José Food Not Bombs, and the two became one, expanding to serving two days a week.

As our crowds grew at servings, so did our attention. Now, after much harrassment by the police, bureaucratic carrot chasing and much effort on our part, we even have a permit to be in the park. We've secured our turf, and now the city and police don't bother us at all.

We now get most of our food from the various farmer's markets in the area, and we are affiliated with the San José Peace Center, where we have our meetings. We are in touch, and work in accordance and solidarity with, many San José homeless advocacy groups, as well as other political activists. When looking back on our history, we are happy to be able to say that the city has not given us nearly as much trouble as in other places such as San Francisco and Santa Cruz, although the major media response has been somewhat cold. We have come a long way, but we also realize that we have a long way to go and much work to do, especially with the current political climate in our beloved state of California. A few months ago, San José was the site for a meeting between SJ FNB and some of our brothers and sisters from FNB in San Francisco, East Bay and Santa Cruz. This was a wonderful occasion, and we hope for and look forward to more of these type of Bay Area gatherings taking place.

~~ON DECEMBER 4TH, THERE WILL BE FOOD NOT BOMBS BENEFIT SHOW. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE A FUN NIGHT OF POLITICS AND MUSIC, FEATURING THE BANDS CITIZEN FISH FROM ENGLAND, CAPTAIN SWING, AND HOPEFULLY SPITBAY AND SIREN. AN FNB PLAY MAY BE PERFORMED BETWEEN BANDS, AS WELL AS SPEAKERS, AND THERE WILL BE LITERATURE PRESENT CONCERNING FNB, HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY, VEGETARIANISM, ANIMAL RIGHTS AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE. FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED BY FNB, OF COURSE. THIS TAKES PLACE AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER ON 2ND & REED STREETS IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSÉ. FOR BETTER DIRECTIONS LEAVE A MESSAGE OF SJ FNB VOICEMAIL. THE EVENING STARTS AT 6:30 PM AND DOOR PRICE IS ARBITRARY, BUT HOPEFULLY \$4.~~

Protest AGAINST THE UN's Use of Violence on behalf of Transnational Corporate greed



June 26, 1995

United Nations Plaza
on the 50th Anniversary of the founding
of the UN in San Francisco.

A FOOD NOT BOMBS 'INTERNATIONAL' GATHERING PROPOSAL

The UN Charter was drawn up at the United Nations Conference on International Organization held in San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945. The UN Charter, Article 25, states that every country must feed, house and provide for the human needs of its people. This dream of the UN founders has become perverted. For example, the UN was used as a cover for the oil wars in Iraq and Somalia.

On June 26, 1995, world attention will be focused on the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the United Nations to be held in San Francisco. We propose that human rights activists from around the world meet in San Francisco during that week to share ideas and protest the New World Order.

San Francisco Food Not Bombs agreed to help host this world gathering the week prior to June 26. Right now in San Francisco, homeless people and their supporters are being aggressively arrested and beaten in and near United Nations Plaza in direct violation of the original UN Charter. Some of the proposed workshops are: Building & Operating a Micropower Radio Station, Women's Self Defense, Vegan Cooking, Organic Spiral Gardens, Facilitation & Consensus Training, Squatting, Networking, and Planning Future Actions. There should also be at least one concert or benefit, and lots of free food and fun. Regional gatherings held a few months before to help prepare for the June Gathering were also proposed.

Several othergroups are starting to organize around the 50th Anniversary of the UN including the Global Peace Walk leaving January 15, 1995 from the front of the UN in New York, and the United Nations Association of the USA , and the World Citizenship Association. ...Are 'nations' really all that great of an idea any way?

the story of the elusive permit ...

Yes! SJFNB is now a proud posessor of a special issue parks activity permit. The ransom was only \$25.00, and a donation was volunteered that covered it like soup on a stick. It lasts six months, until February 1995 when we must renew it (or face possible legal tortures) at a fee of no price.

The permit allows us (free of possible legal torture) to serve food every Tuesday and Saturday between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. in St. James park, downtown San Jose. We may also organize weddings, birthdays, divorces, funerals or any other miscellaneous gala festivities during these pronounced times. Got any ideas? Let us know.

This story begins at a point of continuation. For some time, the police had demanded proof of permit purchase for their allowance of actual, active food serving to be in order. After an appropriate amount of deliberation, counseling and meditation, we came to a conclusion, not to be confused with a solution.

THE POLICE CAME TO OUR MEETING... Hey, we invited them! It was like a waltz. At this time we were still meeting outside at the SJSU campus. We were seated as equals on the lawn. For some time, all but one man clad in badge refused to mingle on equal levels. They held their position (strongly, I might add) on the top of their horses. This lone, young buccaneer was the lieutenant of their tribe and ordered the reconsideration of boldly stated affirmations of well-organized recalcitrance on their part. A reluctant performance ensued, yet they still refused to sit in our circle. Maybe they didn't want to make their blue butts green.

We began, one by one, to explain with integrity, diversity, affinity (yet autonomy) that people are hungry and we are a community that is dedicated, well-organized and will not go away. The lieutenant, who was the lone speaker of course, stated that we contributed to the drug problem by drawing more people to the park and by feeding the dealers. Needless to say, this issue was not seriously developed by any of the more important hierarchs with whom we communicated later.

The lieutenant, who is actually a sergeant, told us to simply get a permit and he'd leave us alone. We maintained that we didn't need one, but if it was that simple, we would run on down and pick one up. The next day at the Parks and Streets office, we were informed that the sergeant had placed an indefinite hold on our permit application after the early group had filed for one about five months earlier. At that particular time, we were told it was "in the mail" though it never arrived.

Knowing that our conversations with Sgt. Brookins were bound to land us nowhere, we talked to Christine Schmidt of the Billy de Frank Centre, who got us a meeting with the Chief Of Police. Straight to the top. Chief Lou came under the impression that we wanted to file a complaint against Officer Krupke for disrupting our meeting, but said that he didn't know enough about the situation to make any decisions and rescheduled for two weeks later.

Consensus at our meeting was hard to come by with some people insisting that police were fairly good-intentioned and others muttering, "No! No cooperation!" After many emergency meetings and a calling-together of the Bay Area FNBs for advice, we agreed to the second meeting and that we would make a few compromises for the general good, but that we would not stop serving and we would not leave St. James Park.

The meeting was an amazing success. We all shook hands, and the Chief even told the cops that they were to stop harrassing us if we had a permit and to let us have time to clean-up before they started issuing littering tickets as they had in the past. All is right in the lovely burg of San Jose, at least until Chief Lou leaves office next year or until we have to renew the permit in '95...

'It's a good way to spend an afternoon.'



MISO SUCHY - MERCURY NEWS

Actor Todd Pickering, right, prepares for Saturday's show in the shadow of President McKinley in St. James Park.

Shakespeare tames park crowd

BY STEVE JOHNSON
Mercury News Staff Writer

More than 300 people turned out in San Jose's St. James Park Saturday for the first of three free weekend performances of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

The crowd's diversity might have pleased the old bard, given Shakespeare's tendency to aim his plays at the common man and woman.

Several dozen homeless people and assorted street people sprawled here and there, munching on bread, peach cobbler and rice soup that had been passed out earlier by Food Not Bombs, a homeless advocacy group.

Nearby, a more well-to-do contingent lugged in lawn chairs and heavy coolers and set out wine, pasta salads,

See SHAKESPEARE, Page 4B

SUNDAY

JULY 24, 1994

FC

San Jose Mercury News

300 turn out for 'Taming'

■ SHAKESPEARE

from Page 1B

fresh strawberries and c
goodies or blankets.

"It's a good way to spen
afternoon," said Michele To
25.

Donna Harris, 60, cou
agree more. She and her hust
Earl, had come from Saratoga
see the play. And they cou
say enough about the cha
taking place in the area. "I
love what's happening du
town," she said.

This is the third year tha
San Francisco Shakespeare F
val is using St. James for its
Shakespeare in the Park ev
Russell Blackwood, who
duced the play, said he
pleased at the variety of peop
the San Jose audience.

"What we're always hopin
do with Shakespeare in the
is attract people who perh
wouldn't normally buy a the
ticket," he said.

THANKS

The newsletter is written and compiled by members of San José Food Not Bombs. If you or your Food Not Bombs group would like to contribute something, please send it to:

San José Food Not Bombs
c/o the Peace Centre
48 South 7th St. Suite 101
San José, CA 95112

Our deepest thanks to the farmers at Japantown, Prusch Park, the Pavilion and Town & Country, as well as Loaves & Fishes, Peanuts, Togo's, the San José Peace Centre and all volunteers and supporters of Food Not Bombs.

DECIMINALIZE HOMELESSNESS



Because...food is a RIGHT and not a privilege!

Because there is enough food for everyone to eat!

Because scarcity is a patriarchal lie!

Because a woman should not have to use her body to get a meal or to have a place to sleep!

Because when we are hungry or homeless we have the right to get what we need by panhandling or busking or squatting!

Because poverty is a form of violence, not natural or necessary!

Because capitalism makes food a source of profit, not a source of nutrition!

Because food grows on trees!

Because we need community, not control!

Because we need homes not jails!

Because we need

FOOD NOT BOMBS



Please call San José Food Not Bombs at (408) 236-3463 or feel free to write:

PO BOX 720716, SAN JOSÉ, CA 95172-0716

STATEMENT OF NON-VIOLENCE

The name Food Not Bombs states our most fundamental principle: That our society needs things that give life not things that give death. Our society is dominated by violence and the threat of violence. This affects us both in our daily lives through the constant threat of crime and police abuse and less directly but just as seriously through the constant threat of total annihilation from nuclear war. The authority and power of our government are predicated on the threat and use of violence. They continue to spend more time and resources developing, using, and threatening to use weapons of massive and human planetary destruction than on nurturing and celebrating life. Food Not Bombs has chosen to take a stand against violence. As a group of individuals, we are committed to non-violent social change through the celebration and nurturing of life by giving out free vegetarian food.

Poverty is violence. By spending money on bombs instead of addressing human needs, our government perpetuates and exacerbates the violence of poverty in our society. One of the most direct physical expressions of the violence of poverty is hunger. Millions of Americans go hungry every day and childhood malnutrition contributes heavily to infant mortality rates, which are higher in parts of the U.S. than in some Third World nations. Inadequate or non-existent health care, police brutality, and class discrimination are also forms of systemic violence against poor people. Poverty is also a key factor on the level of interpersonal violence. Domestic violence and street violence often is violence directed inward with people of a class fighting each other, rather than directing pressure against the real oppressor: the government and the ruling class. The violence of poverty also becomes internalized which can result in addictive behavior and suicide.

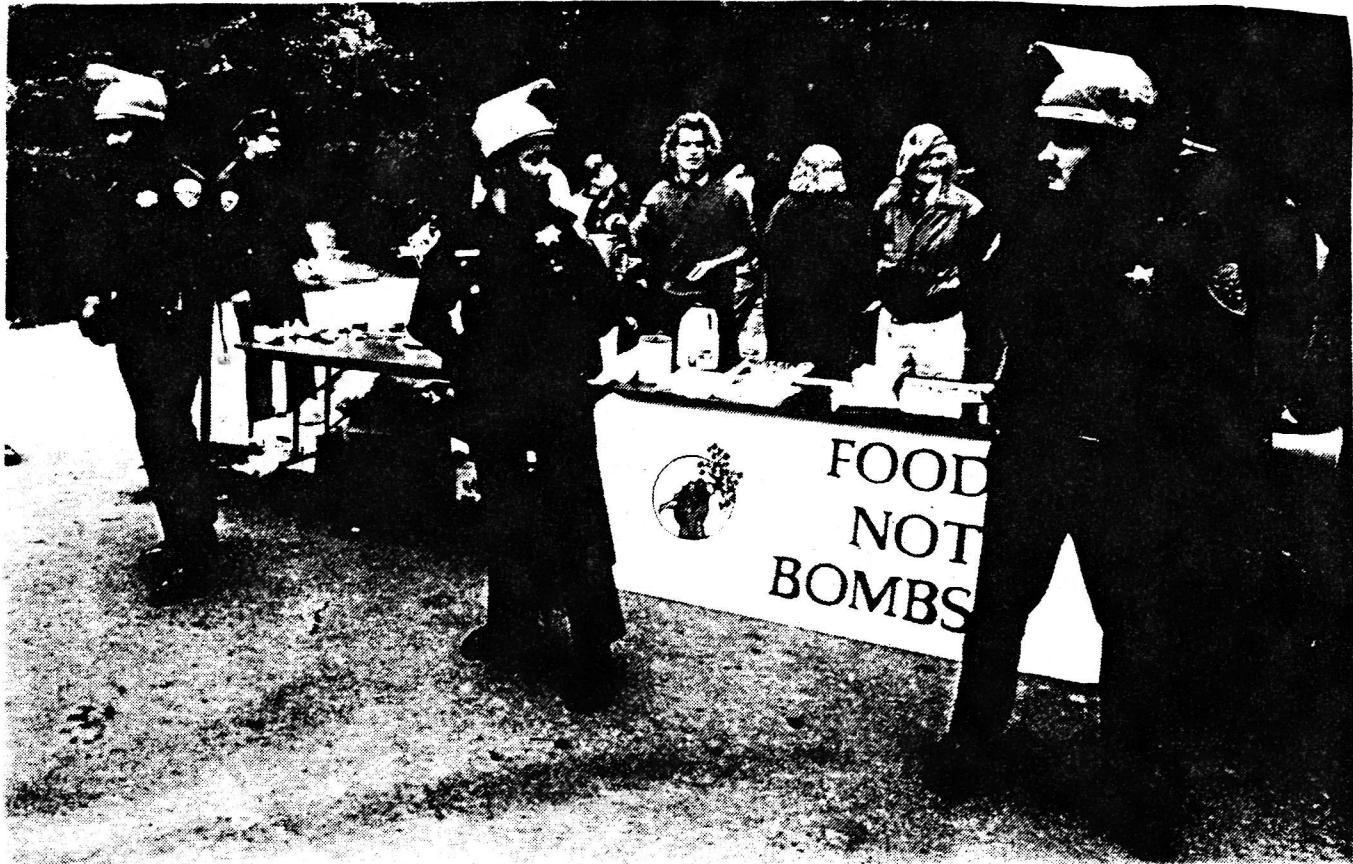
Food Not Bombs responds to the problems of poverty and self-esteem in two ways. First, we provide food to whomever wants it in an open respectful way. We don't make people jump through any bureaucratic hoops that are designed to control and often punish people for being poor. Secondly, we invite people who eat with us to be involved in providing the food themselves. This helps people to regain a feeling of their own power and their ability to change their situation.

The food we serve also expresses our commitment to non-violence. Mainstream food production is an inherently violent process involving the slaughtering of millions of animals, the death of an estimated 10,000 field workers annually, and the poisoning of the air, water, soil, and our bodies with chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Food Not Bombs is performing a direct action with people that attempts to address some very serious problems at no cost to the city. In the past the City of San Francisco and the City of Santa Cruz have chosen to use violence to try and stop free food distribution. The police were routinely used in large numbers to take food equipment; arrest, threaten, and/or beat-up people. This still goes on. In this way they reinforce the violence of the State in the face of ever growing human needs. It is extremely important that we respond to such attacks in a non-violent manner which is consistent with our views of human value. It is never in our interest to use violence against the state, or other humans. In practical terms the state is capable of mustering significantly more violent force than we are so a violent response would risk our safety and incite further, more intense police violence. More philosophically, we don't want to be in the position of recreating the power of the state in our own efforts for social change. We want to create a society based on human rights and human needs; not on the threat and use of violence.

Food Not Bombs works hard to prevent violence within our own community by ensuring that food is never used as a weapon against anyone. At demonstrations and our daily servings we concentrate on serving food in a peaceful and respectful manner, thereby creating a safe environment for people to eat in. The food we serve embodies our commitment to non-violence in so many ways. It is a humane response to poverty, a means of empowering people and is ecologically safe.

Call Food Not Bombs today



THE FOOD NOT BOMBS STORY



Food Not Bombs was formed after the May 24, 1980 occupation attempt of the Seabrook Nuke in New Hampshire. Food Not Bombs is one of many groups that grew out of Clamshell Alliance, which helped sponsor the attempt. Food Not Bomb's first action was to set up a soup line outside the stock holders meeting of the First National Bank of Boston. First National is responsible for "red-lining" the areas in Boston known as Roxbury, Dorchester, South Boston, Charlestown, East Boston and the South End (a.k.a., ghettos). The First also built the Seabrook Nuke and is the money behind much of the weapons industry in New England. Food Not Bombs volunteers fed hot meals to 300 homeless people as the stock holders walked by. Several stock holders talked with us and stuffed a dollar or two in our bucket to help us get started.

From that exciting beginning, we organized a schedule of food pick-ups and deliveries in Boston and Cambridge. One member worked at a natural food

grocery and was able to bring the surplus to Food Not Bombs. The tofu manufacturer who delivered tofu from Western Massachusetts to this store told us that they had lots of tofu that was the "wrong size" and that they would bring it in for us to give to the poor. A local bakery in Harvard Square gave us as many as ten garbage bags of day old bread every morning at 7, not a minute later or earlier; just at seven o'clock in the morning.

We brought that food to the shelters in the South End of Boston. Every other day we would arrive at the Pine Street Inn in our old van. Six or seven men standing outside the Inn would help us carry the food to the kitchen as they thanked us for stopping by. We would go from shelter to shelter all over the South End. At each place the people in the area would give us a hand and share information about other shelter or sources of food. Over the months we became friends with people at each shelter and we lost the feeling of being outsiders.

We also had literature and food tables at rallies, in Harvard Square and on the Boston Common. Our literature covered a wide spectrum of issues that we saw as connected. Food Not Bombs also sold buttons which we often designed ourselves. Our tables became a reliable place to express ideas without fear. Military men would tell us stories about war; worried people would stop to get support and expect to leave inspired; busy folks put a dollar in our buckets and told us that we were doing great work. Staff at the tables found every day to be rewarding and looked forward to their next stint on the streets, which was often the very next day.

Other activists came by with fliers about the next action their group was sponsoring and we would put them next to the buttons. It was fairly likely that Food Not Bombs would have a table at that event and that we would be advertising yet another event at that action. This continues on to this day.

During the first year we told thousands of people about our food distribution to shelters. At about this time, the shelters started to overflow with people. Food Not Bombs asked the public to start donating food directly to the shelters as well as to Food Not Bombs. We started to include housing projects on our regular routes. Before long, we were delivering free food to every project in Cambridge and several projects in Boston. After a few years, Food Not Bombs became the official food distribution group of the City of Cambridge. Today, this distribution part of Food Not Bombs is called the Food For Free Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Self determination is key to pride and Food Not Bombs provides a vehicle for many people. Food Not Bombs distributes food to people who don't qualify for government support or who found the government insulting. Even though recipients of our food were often disabled, they helped us unload our van, pointed us to more sources of food, or more people in need. They saw themselves as part of the Food Not Bombs organization and they were correct. This work continues to this day in Massachusetts.

Food Not Bombs found that the people in need of this food and the people gathering the food were one people. Many of these people saw that the government spends millions of dollars on the military while millions of people go hungry every day. We also found that we were the ones that were going to change this injustice -- not someone in the government.

Food Not Bombs started a group in the Bay Area in January 1988. We also delivered food to the shelter of the Coalition of the Homeless in San Francisco. In the first month that Food Not Bombs existed in San Francisco, we gathered 50 contacts interested in participating. Our start up costs were under \$100.

August 15, 1988 changed the history of Food Not Bombs. As we started to serve free food at Haight and Stanyan, forty-five riot police surrounded our table. Nine of us were arrested. The police and city officials lied to the press about Food Not Bombs. Stories about how we were only interested in publicity and had "a hidden political agenda" surfaced in the media. The police started beating and arresting homeless people, telling them that the beatings were because Food Not Bombs wouldn't stop serving free food.

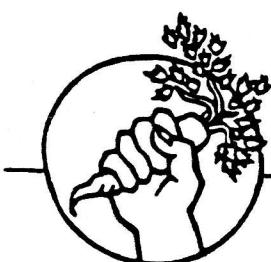
On August 29, 1988, we marched down Haight Street carrying our food, banging pots and pans with spoons. When we got to Haight and Stanyan, we set up our tables. We were soon surrounded by sixty-five riot police and twenty-nine volunteers were arrested. The charges were again dropped.

On September 5, 1988, fifty-four of us were arrested for serving free food. The mayor could see that we wouldn't give up, so he agreed to meet with us. He could see that the police were interfering with our civil rights and ordered the police to stop arresting Food Not Bombs.

After two of S.F. Recreation and Parks Department's largest public meetings, Food Not Bombs received a very ambiguous permit. Food Not Bombs pointed out at the hearings that the revolution has no permit. We never missed a Monday at Haight and Stanyan, even with all the police attacks. The city's attempts to put the homeless out of sight and out of mind failed.

Food Not Bombs represents a victory for the poor against the rich and their government. It is clear that the idea, "food - not bombs," is popular. After our arrests, Food Not Bombs organizations popped up all across the country in such places as Sacramento, CA and Washington, DC. New organizations are starting up all the time. Everyone is invited to work picking up food, delivering food, staffing tables, or preparing food for actions.

We also believe in fun and Food Not Bombs actions are as much a party as they are demonstrations for peace. If you are interested in Food Not Bombs, call us today at (415) 330-5030.



FOOD NOT BOMBS

3145 Geary Boulevard, #12, San Francisco, CA 94118 (415) 330-5030

California FNB contacts

Arcata:	PO Box 456, Arcata, CA 95521	(707) 441-6896
East Bay:	c/o Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Berkeley, CA 94705	(510) 644-4187
Marin:	Daniel Solnit, 15 Madrona St., San Rafael, CA 94901	(415) 454-5042
Sacramento:	1322 -24th St., Sacramento, CA 95816	(916) 446-5099
Santa Cruz:	PO Box 8091, Santa Cruz, CA 95061	(408) 425-3345
San Francisco:	3145 Geary Blvd. #12 San Francisco, CA 94118	(415) 330-5030
San José:	c/o the San José Peace Center 48 South Seventh St. Ste. 101 San José, CA 95112	(408) 236-3463

— I would like to volunteer my time to help.
I am available _____

— I can't help now, but I have enclosed a donation.
(Please make checks payable to the Peace Center: FOR)

— Sorry, but I cannot help. Please leave me on your
mailing list for the future.

— Sorry, but I cannot help.
PLEASE TAKE ME OFF YOUR MAILING LIST.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY & STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Please cut out the bottom half of this page and return it to San José Food Not Bombs at 48 S. Seventh Street, Suite 101, San José, CA 95112 c/o the San José Peace Center.

For easier response, please feel free to call our voice-mail number at (408)236-3463 and leave a message after the recording. Please remember to leave your name and number.

FEED THE PEOPLE WITHOUT APOLOGY



FOOD NOT BOMBS IS . . .

A concept. A slogan. An ideology. A way of life. A process.

A voluntary cooperation of freely acting individuals to collect, prepare, and distribute food that would otherwise be wasted.

A recognition: that the existing political economy compels people to compete against each other, that it promotes greed, control, and other interests of an elite minority while oppressing the majority; that an under-class develops from such policies that encourages domination and violence; that in our society, it is acceptable to profit from the suffering and misery of others.

An action: of creating new social relations in which people cooperate to meet basic human needs such as food and shelter; of social re-prioritization that places human needs above corporate gain; of disengaging ourselves from main-stream society and engaging in responsible, ecological, community-synthesizing practices.

An expression of freedom and independence, by using free time and creativity to advance life.

San José Food Not Bombs
c/o San José Peace Cntr
48 South Seventh St., 101
San José, CA 95112
(408)236-3463

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